Business — How to get hold of artworks for investment

Sports — UConn trips Duke, sets up NCAA final vs Georgia Tech

Infotech — IBM backs Pinoy software firm vs Microsoft

World / A10 — Madrid blast suspects blow selves up

Student facing theft raps commits suicide

US plans to deploy Marines in region

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, April 5, 2004 · 36 pages / vol. 19 / no. 119



PALM RITES Devotees outside the Quiapo Church in Manila wait for their palm fronds to be blessed yesterday, Palm Sunday, which recalls Jesus' triumphant arrival in Jerusalem. But they also carry an image of the Crucifixion, which commemorates Christ's Passion on Good Friday.

GMA aide wants CPP 'fronts' out of polls

Party-list hopefuls aiding NPA, Gonzales charges

By Carlito Pablo

WHILE THE government wants the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) to lay down its arms in favor of electoral struggle, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales is seeking the disqualification from the May 10 elections of six party-list groups he considers CPP front organizations.

Sale of gov't power plants can avert crisis—GMA

Shabu lab turned into rehab unit

By Christian V. Esguerra



ROLE REVERSAL This four-storey seaside mansion in Tanza, Cavite, was once a big shabu factory. It has been converted into a rehabilitation center for drug dependents.



Who's ahead? Ask the mongo, says bookshop

Poe outbursts show potential for abuse of power

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage

Abu bomber loose in Metro Manila

Palace rules out probe of Reyes



WAVING IN HOLY WEEK
Fr. Michael [illegible], parish priest of the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran, Parañaque City, blesses the palm fronds being waved by the faithful in observance of Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week, yesterday.

Some bets junking Gloria

By Norman Bordadora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FPJ backs out of yet another debate

By Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora

Sugar industry problems

Measuring stick

Followers say Baguio execs 'sabotaged' Bro. Eddie rally

By Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



More desertions hit Roco camp

By Carlito Pablo



RP opens Dubai outpost

By Jerome Aning



Manila pushes beatification of poor youths' benefactor



The Daily Gospel

Supreme Court Doctrines

Poe chats up, regales media



GMA returns to roots on birthday

FPJ's wish

Devotees hail 'closure' of sacred mountain

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—At least two influential religious sects whose members climb Mt. Banahaw on a veritable pilgrimage every Lenten season have expressed approval of the temporary closure of what is widely considered a sacred site.

In a video interview conducted by staff members of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Luzon, a public interest environmental legal defense center based here, the leaders of the two sects which are based on Banahaw's slopes agreed that the "mystical mountain" needed a "rest."

[illegible]

Korea welcomes OFWs under new scheme

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Delia Albert yesterday announced that the Philippines, along with Thailand and Mongolia, has been chosen one of the first countries that would be allowed to send workers to South Korea under the latter's new employment permit system.

[illegible]

Solons come out in defense of John O

6 killed, 3 wounded in military, NPA clashes





SUERTRES 1 6 1

SUPERLOTTO 6/49 19 22 28 31 35 46

METRO

Caloocan looks for fire hazards

Chino Roces Ave. resurrected





THE CHAOTIC image of Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City (above, left) is now but a past nightmare (right).

Color coding lifted Wednesday until Good Friday

The WORLD

Suspects in Madrid blasts blow selves up



Chirac visits top secret Russian space center

Texas mom who crushed sons' heads acquitted

Missing Bach score found in Japan



CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN WASHINGTON

Sri Lanka president's political gamble reaps dividends



KUMARATUNGA

2 US Marines killed in Iraq



Arafat 'a more serious obstacle' than slain Yassin—Israel minister

Militant group starts endorsing candidates for May polls

No more new shoes for Jennifer now



'Pasyon' sound fills WPD halls



Couple stabbed to death by helper

RMHS Batch '71 reunion set

SPORTS



Alaska routs FedEx anew

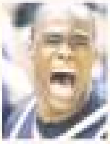
FEDEX altered its import and coach but the result against Alaska remained unchanged.

What's Inside

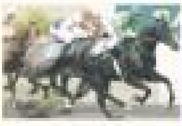












PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION



Mel Gibson's Passion

EDITORIAL

AFTER ALL the hype, ...

Holy Week heaven in the city

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Foul

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

GMA's 'campaign manager'

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

'Academizing' Mindanao peace

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO



Antonio J. Montalvan II

She makes things work

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

Unfair coverage of Villanueva's campaign

READERS' ADVOCATE



Raul J. Palabrica

Discrimination

Issues meeting

Technical error

Coco levy politics

LETTERS



Are there jobs for new graduates?

Sensitivity to human rights

DOF official on Tulfo's allegations

The Villavicencio heritage in Taal

Sex and gender sensitivity

MJCI, gov't roles in horse races

Water rate increase not sure yet

Vow breakers

HIGH BLOOD

Corazon Mercado-Olivar

Across the NATION

Minors rescued from recruiters

NPA guns silent during Holy Week

Kidnapped Sulu trader freed

Cops, Army alerted as rebels sighted near Casecnan dam

Tribal elders now consult youth in choosing bets

Syndicates using NPA campaign fees, says Solcom



HOLY WEEK SPECTACLE

Political rivalry seen in mauling of village, SK execs in Olongapo

Army, police define roles in securing Negros Oriental polls

Criminal complaint filed against Osmeña son

Brother Eddie: Victory is mine on May 10



DAVAO BOMBING REMEMBERED

Whales, dolphins 'visiting' Bohol early, says tour exec

Sighted virtually

Money changer abducted in Cotabato

ROUNDUP

Suspected killer nabbed

Laguna drivers' discontent

Truck rams 3 houses, kills 3

Island caravan

Enlightenment seminar

Samar mayoral bet disqualified



GMA aide wants CPP 'fronts' out

Sale of gov't power plants can avert crisis—GMA

Student facing theft raps commits suicide

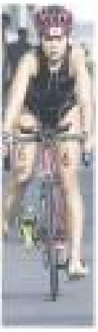


Tour Pilipinas team captains presented today

ASIAN TRIATHLON

Kazakh halts Japanese







Briton, Taiwanese top juniors tennis

Celebrity players form Strong Republic squad



Who's ahead? Ask the mongo …

Brains behind the beans

FPJ country

Shabu lab turned into rehab unit

Major transhipment point

GMA's war

Boats loaded with drugs

Malaysia rejects US military help

US plans to deploy Marines in region

Widespread support

Vast space

Al-Qaida threat

Poe outbursts show potential for abuse of power

Not closed

Like a thug

Red Reyes

BUSINESS

Tax rules too complicated–PCCI survey



Boeing seen putting up facility in Clark

Currencies



Interest Rates

Stock Market

Sluggish trading seen

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Ispat to put up blast furnace in Iligan to meet China demand

Down and dirty in Mindanao

MindanaWorld

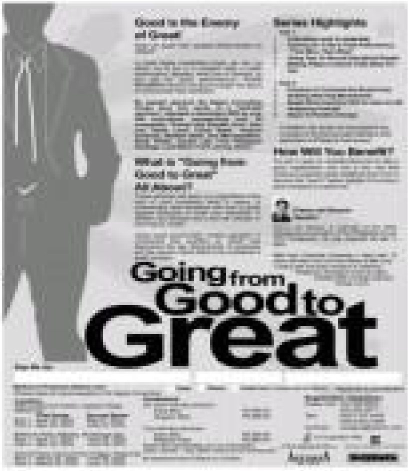
Joji Ilagan Bian

Philamlife expects 16% profit growth in '04

RP seen meeting domestic demand for coffee by 2013



Deutsche Regis top PSE trader in 1st quarter



RP to keep rice tariffs

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINES has informed the World Trade Organization that it would maintain its high tariffs on rice to protect the farm sector.

Edsel Custodio, the Philippines' permanent representative to the WTO, said in his formal notice to the WTO Secretariat and other WTO members that the country was again invoking provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture to maintain its quantitative restrictions (QRs) on rice imports.

Maintaining the country's QRs on rice imports means that the Philippines will prohibit the free-for-all importation of rice.

In addition, rice imports would be slapped a 100 percent tariff except for imports by the state-run trading firm National Food Authority to build the country's buffer stocks.

As a WTO member, the Philippines needs to negotiate and justify its plan to keep the QRs with other WTO members.

This is because tariff barriers such as QRs, including those for agriculture products, are scheduled to be removed by July 2005.

"Other rice-producing countries like Thailand, Vietnam and India, who are also rice exporters trying to penetrate our market, may impose certain conditions and trade-offs for the Philippines to maintain the QRs," explained Agriculture Assistant Secretary Segfredo Serrano, who is also a member of the RP negotiating team to the WTO.

Serrano noted that the Philippines has until June 2005 to conduct all its negotiation meetings to defend its tough stance to keep its QRs on rice.

Keeping the QRs on rice means that the Philippine government is slowing down its agriculture trade liberalization to ensure the viability of Filipino farmers especially those engaged in rice farming.

As the Philippines' chief staple, some 3.2 million Filipino farmers are involved in rice cultivation although local production is not enough to feed the country's growing population.

Raul Concepcion's parliament

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Hernando C. General



Tax rules . . .

DBP sets up e-market for SMEs

PLDT Q1 net clears ₱4.5B level

Creeping prices

NO FREE LUNCH



Cielito F. Habito

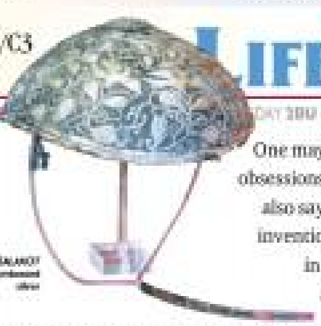
Why inflation had slowed

No reasons to go up

Boeing seen . . .

Sluggish trading . . .

Neil Daza's lens of faith /C3



SALAKOT with embossed silver

One may say that this exhibit is about obsessions and oppressions. But one may also say that it is about insights and inventions—the colonial experience in which both sides learn a lot from each other



ARMOR made of carabao horn

Filipinas and the romance of the conquista

ALL4ART



Bea Zobel Jr.

MY FATHER and I first went to see the Legazpi exhibit with Jaki Pilar as our guide. I couldn't get enough so I went again. This time John Silva took me around. John's excitement was contagious. We were both shrieking with excitement. I was like a schoolchild discovering and marveling at the many examples of Filipino ingenuity that had been preserved in Spain.

The Legazpi exhibit which was brought over from San Sebastian, Spain (birthplace of Legazpi) to mark the 500th anniversary of his birth, is presently at the National Museum and is a must for the whole family to see. Not only is it a manifestation of Filipino life in colonial Spain, it also demonstrates the excellence of Philippine craftsmanship.

In 1564 Philip II of Spain sends Don Miguel Lopez de Legazpi to head an expedition from Mexico to the Philippine islands. He is joined by Andrés de Urdaneta, an Augustinian. The purpose of this expedition? To find a "return route" in which ships could sail back safely from Asia to the American continent. Legazpi eventually stays behind while Urdaneta, fulfilling his promise, sails back, mapping the "return route" back to Mexico.

In 1571, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi declared what is now Manila, capital of "Islas Filipinas." Manila was to be a busy trade port with other Asian countries. It would be from Manila that ivory, lacquer, mother of pearl, furniture, silk and chinaware would be sent in the galleons to Mexico then on to Spain.

About us

One could say that the exhibit is about our colonization by a foreign power. But the exhibit is also about us, our architecture, our costumes and customs, our way of life in the past.

You will see the best of Philippine arts and creativity. My favorite is a salakot made of the skin of the [illegible] fish! Talk about making the most of our resources—that poor, hapless creature would have never imagined that he would become a fashion statement!

Another salakot has embossed silver decoration probably making it very heavy. (But, hey, haven't we always suffered a little to look good?)

There is also the incredible 19th-century ecclesiastical chair. What I love is the detail (pointed out by Jaki) of the pineapple in the middle of all that pompous decoration. It was as if the carver was saying, "I will put my Filipino trademark in the middle of such might!"

Then there is the single-barrel lantaka (cannon) the Muslims used against the Spanish. The details cannot be more exquisite. The base is actually a carving of a [illegible]. There are bird figures on top. John amusingly remarked at how ornate these tools of death were.

There were, as well, armors and shields intricately carved. There was a suit of armor made of carabao horn! It is said that local artisans copied armors from captured Spaniards.

But it was the Mapeha shield with its famous

Continued C2

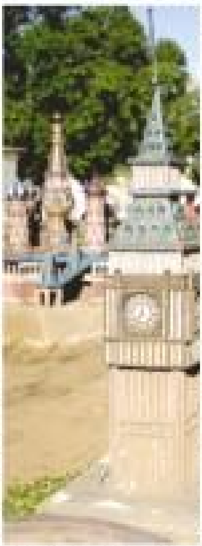


17TH-CENTURY St. Francis Xavier silver wood painting, with mother-of-pearl on clothes

VIGAN PLAZA

Heartland of the city of Hispanic legacy

Unique to the Vigan landscape are the town's three historic plazas that are 'connected' to one another and are easily accessible from any end







Filipinas and the romance of the conquista













LIFESTYLE

Neil Daza, cinematographer of 'Dekada '70,' captures rites of life and death with a quintessential Pinoy eye



LENTEN rites in Malabon



ROSARY and a prayer

Lens of faith, eyes of hope

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

A COMPENDIUM of seemingly disparate personal stories, but aptly conceived as a visual diary of sorts, best describes Neil Daza's second solo exhibit of black-and-white photographs. Told in richly textured, visually compelling compositions, these represent the artist's attempt to document the lives of people, including his family, as he explores the intertwining realms of death, religion and mystical thought.

Documented over an extended 10-year period when he personally witnessed the deaths of his loved ones, and the attendant grief and anguish the finality of dying wrought on the living, the 90-odd photographs capture those moments in the interiors of private homes and cavernous churches, sites where mortals and deities converge and commune.

Titled "Pa-tina Sa Sinilahan: Images on Death and Religion," the exhibit at Pasilyo Victorio Edades at the 4/F hallway of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (until April 18) reveals telling images of the nature of the Filipino, as personified by the ordinary folk who, for one frozen moment, lay bare their souls before God, drawing strength and supplication from the wellspring of faith and religion.

A social documentarist of the venerated tradition of "concerned photography," Daza succeeds in staying as intimately close to his subjects without their knowledge, or during those moments just before they could react to the obtrusive clicking of the camera.

Deaths

Among these motley photographs are recorded the first two deaths in his family, his grandmother—a well-loved matriarch who passed away in her old age—and an older brother who was prematurely killed in a car accident. Scenes from their wake at the Daza home, as well as the funeral cortege that soon followed, thrust the viewer as close to the event as possible.

Daza's father, a military officer who later became a fugitive hunted by Marcos' dreaded intelligence operatives, and who later languished in prison for eight long years, died, in 1993, from emphysema. But instead of focusing on his funeral, the son, then enamored with photography, took a shot of his mother right after they buried him. It shows his mother alone in the garden of their Parañaque home, praying before an altar, her face looking up for divine supplication.

There are equally telling images Daza had caught with his old Nikon camera, and later replaced by a Leica M6 Rangefinder, of passing funeral corteges and unfolding colorful Lenten rituals, that he had seen in places he had visited while scouting sites for his video and film projects. These photos show an admixture of grief, anguish and unshakable faith in the divine energy, qualities that the popular telenovelas continue to extol.

Daza's first photographic show, "Images of Manila," which was mounted at Instituto Cervantes, delved into the subject of gritty city dwellers, nondescript characters who eke out a living in the urban jungle such as workers in their daily toil and vendors plying their trade in the congested environs of the city, including the surrounding space of churches and sidewalks.

Folk rituals

Although better known as a cinematographer of award-winning films, including "Dekada '70," "Lero sa Bago," and "Sanadhin Treasury," Daza started out as a painter after studying Fine Arts at University of Santo Tomas in 1986. He later worked as a director of MTVs or music videos, enrolling at the film workshop at the Mowelfund Film Institute.

Winning a streak of awards at the Gawad CCP for Alternative Film, he shot a number of experimental films, documentaries and short feature films.

LENS/C4

Shock of art and faith







Imaginary posture

Free interpretations

Lens of faith, eyes of hope



QUIAPO healing



THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S mother in grief



DEVOUT communicant



SANTO Entierro



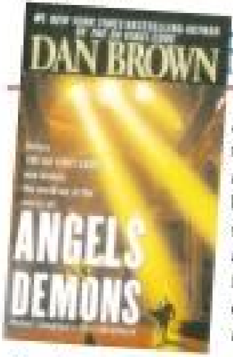


Briccio Santos at Mag:Net, Ramon Diaz at Duemila

VISUAL ARTS





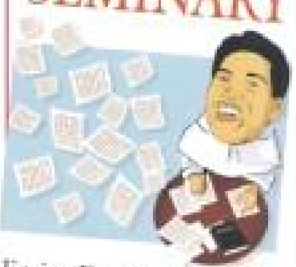


LIFESTYLE

Anti-Christian terrorists use a scientific breakthrough to lay siege on the Vatican amid a papal conclave in the newest novel of 'The Da Vinci Code' author, Dan Brown

Science and terrorism vs the Holy See

Love Letters from the SEMINARY



Enrico D. Gonzales, O.P.

Ode to a cloistered life

The book invites readers to relive with the author his journey as a one-time Master of Students in a Dominican seminary

Science and terrorism vs the Holy See

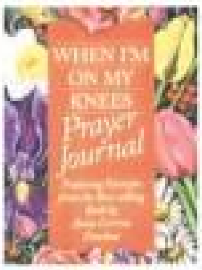
Brainteasers

Fellows named to 5th UST National Writers Workshop



New magazine promotes reading

Books on heaven, prayer and love

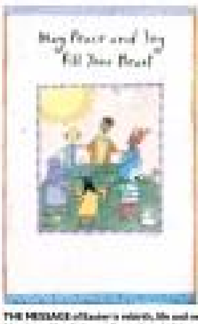




"IMPRESSION: Filipinas," by Henry Rosales

Art supply store discovers new talents

CFA holds summer media workshops







THE MESSAGE of Easter is rebirth, life and new beginnings—a message worth sharing ... by sending a ... or a Hallmark card, available at National Book Store.

"PAGKAGISING in the City," by Cesar Diego

LIFESTYLE



THREE'S COMPANY: Christian Bautista, Bituin Escalante and Audie Gemora

Bituin Escalante and Christian Bautista are just some of the products of Trumpets Playshop, now on its 11th year

Talent and artistry at play

Text by Allison W. Lopez
Photos by [illegible]

WITH mascara running on her cheeks, she moaned and whimpered to her lover, who was tied up on a chair: "Oh darling, please believe me, I'll never do you no harm, believe me when I tell you I'll never do you no harm..."

The audience suddenly erupted in laughter, and Audie Gemora, the teacher, reeled on the floor at the hilarious scene created by his then-student Bituin Escalante, with her real-life boyfriend, for their final showcase at Trumpets Playshop.

"She took the song totally out of context!" Gemora fondly recalled, as [illegible] [illegible] at the final recital six years ago. "She was so creative, I couldn't stop laughing," he said.



[illegible]

Summer workshop

[illegible]

of my cousin Lala, who was involved in the play. I tried 'Advanced' 'cause I didn't want to pay for 'Basic,' then 'Intermediate'..." he said, laughing. "Fortunately I got into Advanced. Yey! Then later on, I auditioned for 'Lion, Witch,' and I got in as a ghoul!"

Escalante, now seven years in the entertainment industry, also enrolled in the same class but in a different year. She was already dabbling in theater then. The two met in "All" when Bautista joined the singing contest "Star in a Million."

"When we learned about the contest, we insisted to Christian [that he should] join," Gemora said. "He became the crowd favorite, the mentors' favorite..."

"But I lost," said Bautista. "I didn't cry though, and it actually turned out well. I got a deal from Warner."

Proving that he was destined for bigger things, Bautista recently launched his eponymous debut album.

Gemora's pride in his former students' flourishing careers is evident, but he's modest about it.

[illegible]

[illegible] C8

Talent and artistry at play





Musical depicts Michelangelo



Metro names hot bodies, hot gadgets, hot secrets